

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02673 131211Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
----- 090007

R 131142Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1956

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2673

EXDIS

FOR NEA SAUNDERS FROM AMBASSADOR

DEPT PASS AS DESIRED TO RABAT AND TEL AVIV

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SY
SUBJ: ASAD'S RABAT SPEECH

REF: DAMASCUS 2525

1. YOU WILL RECALL THAT PRESIDENT ASAD IN HIS NOVEMBER 7 MEETING DREW SECRETARY'S PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE CLOSING STATEMENT ASAD HAD MADE OCTOBER 30 IN RABAT.

2. ONLY BRIEF EXTRACTS OF SPEECH WERE PUBLISHED IN THE LOCAL PRESS OF NOVEMBER 1. THE FULL TEXT WAS NOT CARRIED BY ANY MEDIA HERE UNTIL SYRIAN TV CARRIED A FILM CLIP ON NOVEMBER 8 SHOWING ASAD DELIVERING SPEECH IN ITS ENTIRETY.

3. PRESIDENT OPENED WITH THE ASSERTION THAT THE CONFERENCE HAD AFFIRMED ARABS PRESENT AND FUTURE SOLIDARITY. HE DESCRIBED IN GENERAL TERMS THE COURAGE OF THE ARAB MASSES FACING "AN ENEMY UNIQUE IN HIS ILL WILL TOWARDS PEACE AND TOWARDS ALL THE MEANINGS OF RIGHT, GOOD AND JUSTICE." HE PRAISED THE MARTYRS OF THE OCTOBER WAR AND STATED THAT THEY HAD SHOWN THE ROAD TO FREEDOM AND PEACE. "OUR MARTYRS ARE THE MARTYRS OF PEACE. THEY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 02673 131211Z

WANTED THEIR NATION TO LIVE QUIETLY AND PEACEFULLY AND

THE WORLD TO LIVE LIKEWISE...THEY SOUGHT FOR THE ARAB NATION FREEDOM FROM INJUSTICE, DEFEATISM AND OCCUPATION SO THAT ALL PEOPLES CAN LIVE IN A CLIMATE OF PEACE WHERE JUSTICE, RIGHT, PROSPERITY AND LOVE PREVAIL."

4. THE WORD "PEACE" RECURS CONSTANTLY VIZ: "THE WORLD SHOULD KNOW THAT WE SEEK PEACE AND NEVER ABANDON THIS PATH;" "WE ARE THE NATION OF PEACE AND WILL NOT ABANDON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS NATION. PEACE IS A GREAT GOAL CONFLICTING WITH ALL INJUSTICES AND EVILS."

5. THE MOST ELOQUENT SECTION OF THE SPEECH, AS WE REPORTED IN REFTEL NOVEMBER 1, STATED IN FULL, "WE DO NOT WISH DEATH FOR ANYONE; WE DO NOT ACCEPT INJUSTICE FOR ANYONE OR FROM ANYONE. WAR, ALTHOUGH WE ENTER IT, IS NOT A WHIM BUT A NECESSITY. WE BELIEVE IN FREEDOM, WE LOVE FREEDOM AND WANT IT FOR US AND ALL THE PEOPLES ON EARTH. WE WILL STRUGGLE TO REALIZE THIS FREEDOM FOR US AND ALL OTHERS."

6. PRESIDENT CONCLUDED WITH SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MOROCCAN SOLDIERS WHO HAD FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE WITH SYRIANS IN OCTOBER 73 AND WITH COMPLIMENTS TO KING HASSAN.

7. COMMENT: ON READING THIS BRIEF SPEECH, I DO NOT FIND IT REMARKABLE FOR ITS SPECIFICS. READ AGAINST BACKGROUND OF BELLICOSE STATEMENTS BY PREVIOUS SYRIAN LEADERS, HOWEVER, IT IS INTERESTING FOR THE CONCILIATORY IMAGE WHICH IT PROJECTS AND WHICH THE PRESIDENT OBVIOUSLY WISHED TO UNDERSCORE TO THE SECRETARY. MOREOVER, FULL TEXT EXPLAINS BASIS ASAD'S APPARENT CONVICTION THAT HE WAS SENDING SIGNAL TO THE ISRAELI PEOPLE THROUGH REPEATED IDENTIFICATION IN SPEECH OF SYRIAN POLICY WITH PEACE. EVIDENTLY OTHER ARABS SO INTERPRETED ASAD'S POSTURE, AS I NOTE IN MOST RECENT COMMENTS BY BAHRAINI FONMIN (MANAMA 0926). JUDGING BY THE WARLIKE INTENTIONS WHICH THE ISRAELI MEDIA CONTINUE TO ASCRIBE TO SARG, WOULD APPEAR THAT IN ISRAEL AT LEAST, ASAD'S MESSAGE HAS NOT GOTTEN THROUGH.

MURPHY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAMASC 02673 131211Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PALESTINIANS, SPEECHES, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DAMASC02673
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740327-0290
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741148/aaaabonw.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: DAMASCUS 2525
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASAD'S RABAT SPEECH
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, SY, (ASAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005